Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand-binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises ~~a cytokine receptor~~ c-mpl, or a proliferation inducing part thereof that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

5. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the "ligand" is tamoxifen, a derivative thereof, or a metabolite thereof and the "ligand-binding domain" is derived from a mutant estrogen receptor that is unresponsive to an estrogen and that is responsive to tamoxifen, a derivative thereof, or a metabolite thereof.

6. (Original) A DNA encoding the fusion protein of Claim 1.

7. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the DNA of Claim 6.

8. (Original) A cell carrying the vector of Claim 7.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for selectively proliferating the cell of Claim 8, which comprises exposing the cell of Claim 8 to a ligand capable of acting on the "ligand-binding domain" of the fusion protein of Claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising a desired exogenous gene and a DNA encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand-binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a ~~cytokine receptor~~ c-mpl, or a proliferation inducing part thereof that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 10, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

15. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 10, wherein the "ligand" is tamoxifen, a derivative thereof, or a metabolite thereof, and the "ligand-binding domain" is derived from a mutant estrogen receptor that is unresponsive to an estrogen and that is responsive to a tamoxifen, a derivative thereof, or a metabolite thereof.

16. (Original) The vector of Claim 10, wherein the "gene encoding a fusion protein" and the "exogenous gene" are located on the same molecule.

17. (Original) The vector of Claim 10, wherein the "gene encoding a fusion protein" and the "exogenous gene" are located on separate molecules.

18. (Original) A cell carrying the vector of claim 10.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for selectively proliferating the cell of Claim 18, which comprises exposing the cell of Claim 18 to a ligand capable of acting on the "ligand-binding domain" of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the Vector of Claim 10.

20. (Original) A kit comprising (a) the vector of Claim 7 or Claim 10, and (b) a ligand capable of acting on the "ligand-binding domain" of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector.

21. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the second polypeptide comprises both a G-CSF receptor region and c-mpl region.

22. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of Claim 21, wherein the second polypeptide comprises the extracellular region of a G-CSF receptor and the cytoplasmic region of c-mpl.

23. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone

receptor, glucocorticoid receptor, or mineral corticoid receptor.

24. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 10, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor, androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor, or mineral corticoid receptor.